

# Pentagon Expands Targets

WASHINGTON — (AP) — While President Nixon negotiated with Soviet leaders in Moscow, the Pentagon today signaled a widening of bombing in North Vietnam, saying that U.S. planes will hit industrial plants supporting the enemy's war effort.

There was no White House statement on the new policy, and no immediate reaction from Moscow officials, who consider the U.S. role in Vietnam the major stumbling block to improved relations.

Until now, the revived U.S. bombing of North Vietnam, ordered by President Nixon after North Vietnam opened its spring offensive, has concentrated on petroleum storage depots and transportation facilities, including bridges, railroads and truck parks.

## Power Plants

power plants. Most have been rebuilt and some have been protected to minimize damage from bombing.

Friedheim declined to go into detail on what kinds of plants will be subject to U.S. bombing, but it appeared

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probable that the old target list from 1965-1968 bombing days will again be in use.

Among other things American bombers ruined the Thi Nguyen steel plant 38 miles north of Hanoi in the previous bombing round which also saw destruction of chemical plants, iron mills, machine works, concrete making facilities and the like.

## Authority

Friedheim said U.S. commanders exercise more authority without the sort of day-to-day control and supervision which prevailed during the Johnson administration.

"By the nature of the rather substantial effort going on at this time," Friedheim said, "military commanders probably have more flexibility in their targeting than was exercised in the 1967-1968 period."

Under the present setup, Nixon and Defense Secretary Melvin Laird give approval for striking certain types of targets and then leave it to Gen. Creighton Abrams and other commanders in the war theater to determine specific sites and how to hit them.

## Water

Nixon has ruled out any strikes on dikes which control water for North Vietnamese rice, and the administration claims all targets approved play a part in supporting the North Vietnamese attacks on South Vietnam.

Friedheim justified attacks on power plants on the ground they are important to the operations of North Vietnam's air defense network and to switching of railroad trains.

The importance of such industrial facilities as steel mills and machine tool plants would seem to be much less direct and longer

range in affecting the outcome of the fighting in South Vietnam.

On another phase of the new U.S. effort against North Vietnam, Friedheim said the United States intends to maintain active minefields off seven North Vietnamese ports and said that the mines are still lethal.

There has been some speculation that the mines dropped two weeks ago would be allowed to become inactive during Nixon's current visit to Moscow.

Friedheim said all of the 25 or so ships which were bound for North Vietnamese ports when Nixon ordered those ports sealed by U.S. mines have changed course and gone elsewhere. He would not say where those ships, about half of them Russian, had gone.

No additional ships are known to be heading for North Vietnam, Friedheim said.